

REMARKS

Claims 15-17 and 19-27 have been amended. Claims 1-32 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 121 Restriction:

Applicants have filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.144 for withdrawal of the restriction requirement which the Examiner made final in the present Action.

Section 102 Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 15-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gardner et al. (U.S. Patent 5,758,327) (hereinafter “Gardner”). Claims 15-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dmochowski et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0110114) (hereinafter “Dmochowski”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 15, Gardner fails to teach a line item approval module, in which *one or more approvers are identified for each of the plurality of items, wherein said processing approval comprises presenting to an approver only those items for which the approver is identified, and wherein the items for which the approver is identified is less than all of the plurality of items specified in said particular purchasing requisition.* In the electronic requisition and authorization process of Gardner, the identification of items in a single requisition remains intact during the authorization process, for example in a single computer folder having sub-requisitions, and is routed to the decision makers with the folder intact (column 3, lines 5-8, and column 7, lines 15-30). A line item approval or line item veto of Gardner may take place when the intact requisition file is routed to a decision-maker (column 3, lines 48-52). However, there is nothing in Gardner to teach that during the approval process, an individual approver is presented only with the sub-set of items for which he or she is an identified approver, as recited in claim 15. Therefore,

Gardner does not teach all of the limitations of claim 15. In fact Gardner teaches away from this feature by requiring that a requisition be processed on a folder basis including all items.

Similarly, Dmochowski fails to teach *a line item approval module, in which one or more approvers is identified for each of the plurality of items, wherein said processing approval comprises presenting to an approver only those items for which the approver is identified, and wherein the items for which the approver is identified is less than all of the plurality of items specified in said particular purchasing requisition.* In fact, the online capital approval process of Dmochowski does not describe a line item approval process at all. Instead, Dmochowski teaches an automated system for approval of a single capital expenditure. Therefore, Dmochowski does not teach the limitations of claim 15.

Applicants remind the Examiner that anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every limitation of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. M.P.E.P 2131; *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claims. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As discussed above, both Gardner and Dmochowski fail to teach *a line item approval module, in which one or more approvers is identified for each of the plurality of items, wherein said processing approval comprises presenting to an approver only those items for which the approver is identified, and wherein the items for which the approver is identified is less than all of the plurality of items specified in said particular purchasing requisition.* Therefore, neither Gardner nor Dmochowski can be said to anticipate claim 15.

Applicants also assert that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the rejections have been shown to be unsupported for the independent claim, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

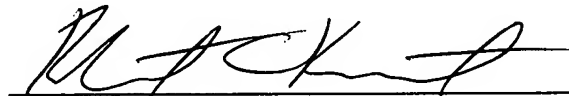
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-90200/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 22, 2005